ABSTRACT

A process for the purification of a crude propene oxide containing methanol and acetaldehyde by a continuously operated extractive distillation using an extraction solvent lowering the volatility of methanol and feeding a compound containing an unsubstituted NH_2 group capable of reacting with acetaldehyde to a distillation column at a point above the feeding point of the crude propene oxide to give a purified propene oxide containing less than 100 ppm methanol and less than 100 ppm acetaldehyde. There is also disclosed a process for the catalytic epoxidation of propene that includes this purification stage.